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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

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INFORMATION REPORT

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FDGB Support for West German Strikes

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1. On 20 January 1955, immediately after learning of the intended strike of Ruhr miners and metal workers against the statements made by Reusch, the FDGB National Executive Board ordered the chairman of all industrial trade unions affiliated to the FDGB and the FDGB Bezirk chairmen, to organize a "solidarity campaign" in support of the West German strikes. In detail, it was ordered that all FDGB members had to buy special "solidarity stamps" valued at least at 50 pfennigs both in January and February 1955. It was expected that the sales of these stamps would at least yield four million DME in each of the two months. The sale of these stamps was to be compulsory during the two months mentioned; afterwards they would be sold on a voluntary basis. It was, however, not ruled out that the acquisition of one 0.50DME solidarity stamp per month would be made compulsory if the development of the political situation necessitated such a course.

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